

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: CREATIVE SOURCE/
HELEN REDDY/JAZZ GROUP

STAE FOR CU/ARTS, INFO: EUR/SOV, CU/EE; GENEVA FOR

CSCE/CORIDEN; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEE

REF: (A) STATE 50684; (B) MOSCOW 2769

1. EMBOFF MET MARCH 14 WITH GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS
(KOKONIN AND NETTO) TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR REMAINDER OF
1975. SUMMARY THEIR VIEWS FOLLOWS.

2. GOSKONTSERT VIRTUALLY INSISTING THERE BE TOUR OF
THREE MAJOR U.S. PAGES IN CALENDAR YEAR 1975 AND IS
ASSUMING THERE WILL BE FOUR MAJOR GROUPS IN 1976.
GOSKONTSERT STRONGLY AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF ONLY TWO
GROUPS IN 1975, AND DOES NOT WISH CONSIDER FIVE IN
1976.

3. GOSKONTSERT WOULD LIKE SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO US THIS
JUNE FOR TWO-THREE WEEKS (WHATEVER NECESSARY) REVIEW DRAMA
TROUPE, ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, CREATIVE SOURCE,
JAZZ GROUP, HELEN REDDY AND ANY OTHER GROUPS WHICH MAY BE
UNDER DEPT. CONSIDERATION FOR USSR TOURS IN 1975, 1976.

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EITHER DEPUTY DIRECTOR VLADIMIR M. KOKONIN (ARTISTIC

DIRECTOR) OR DIRECTOR NIKOLAY M. ALESHCHENKO PROBABLY WILL MAKE TRIP. NEITHER HAS BEEN TO US BEFORE, AND SINCE BOTH ARE TOP BRASS AT GOSKONTSERT, EMBASSY ENDORSESTRIP BY EITHER ONE. ALTHOUGH DETAILS STILL IN PLANNING STAGE HERE, GOSKONTSERT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR JUNE VISIT AND VERY ROUGH SCHEDULE OF CITIES TO BE VISITED AND GROUPS REVIEWED. ADVISE.

3. FOR 1975, EMBOFF REPLIED ST. PAUL WAS CERTAIN, PENDING SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION ALL NEGOTIATING TERMS (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS), AND THAT WE EXPECTED DRAMA GROUP TO BE NOMINATED SOON. FOR THIRD GROUP, EMBOFF AND GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS EXPLORED AT LENGTH POSSIBILITY OF JAZZ GROUP TOUR THIS SUMMER ALONG LINES OF REFTEL (A).

4. KOKONIN STRONGLY FAVORS TOUR BY GOOD JAZZ GROUP THIS SUMMER. HE IS REACTING POSITIVELY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG JULY FOUR JUBILEE IDEA WITH GROUP LIKE NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY, PREFERRING PROGRAM OF MUSIC UP TO '30'S (REFTEL (A), PARA 3). GOSKONTSERT FORSEES HIGHLY

SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION TO US JAZZ GROUP IN SUMMER. SUMMER HAS BECOME KNOWN HERE AS "VARIETY SEASON" (ESTRADNIY), WITH LARGE TURNOUT FOR LIGHTER, MORE POPULAR MUSIC. GOSKONTSERT ENVISIONS TOUR OF FOUR-FIVE WEEKS.

5. EMBOFF DISCUSSED AT LENGTH PROBLEMS OF EARL HINES TOUR OF 1966 AND SUMMER PROBLEMS IN GENERAL. KOKONIN AND NETTO AGREED THAT NINE YEARS AGO THERE WERE NO (SIC) GOOD HALLS, BUT INSIST THERE HAVE SINCE BEEN MANY CHANGES AND A SERIES OF NEW, GOOD HALLS BUILT. GOSKONTSERT ASSURES DEPT. IT CAN GUARANTEE GOOD, NEW HALLS (WITH AIR-CONDITIONING IN SOME CASE) IN CITIES LIKE MOSCOW, KISHINEV, KIEV, VILNIUS, MINSK, BAKU, TBILISI, ETC. SOCHI IS POSSIBILITY WITH GOOD HALLS AND VERY PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS. GOSKONTSERT OFFICIALS CONCLUDED SUMMER MUCH BETTER TIME FOR TOUR THAN WINTER WITH ITS OWN PROBLEMS. GOSKONTSERT ALSO WILLING GUARANTEE GOOD HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IF GROUP NOT RPT NOT MORE THAN FIFTEEN.

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6. GOSKONTSERT WELCOMES ADVANCE VISIT INSPECT PERFORMANCE SITES, ACCOMMODATIONS AND DISCUSS ALL TOUR DETAILS.

7. BY "REFURBISHING ITS IMAGE," (REFTEL (B), PARA 9), EMBASSY WAS REPORTING GOSKONTSERT ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS ENORMOUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC SOVIET JAZZ AUDIENCE WHICH EXISTS HERE AND WHICH WAS DISAPPOINTED BY CANCELLATION OF PETERSON CONCERTS. GOSKONTSERT'S DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING BETTER

SERVICES FOR JOFFREY A DIFFERENT TOPIC AND VERY COMPLEX
(SEE EMBASSY AIRGRAM ON JOFFREY TOUR).

8. KOKONIN AND NETTO REAFFIRMED HIGH ESTEEM IN WHICH
ARMSTRONG HELD HERE, OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY. THEY
DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW REASONS FOR TURNDOWN OF SOVIET TOUR
IN MID-SIXTIES (REFTEL (A), PARA 8), BUT DID MAKE OBVIOUS
COMMENT "THAT WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT TIME AND SITUATION"
(I.E. VIETNAM, PRE-DETENTE).

9. PER PARA 5, REFTTEL (A), PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR
FEELS EMBASSY ABLE PROVIDE BACK-STOP FOR VISIT, IF DEPARTMENT
CAN COME UP WITH RIGHT GROUP AT RIGHT TIME (JUNE-JULY).
FURTHER, PRESS ATTACHE, WHO IS OUR RESIDENT JAZZ ENTHUSIAST
AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM IDEA, EXPECTS
BE HERE INTO EARLY JULY.
STOESSEL

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